

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Specification

The errors in paragraphs [0027] and [0032] have been corrected as suggested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-20 were presented. Claims 1-14 are canceled. Claims 15-20 are now pending.

Allowed Claims

The allowance of claims 15-20 is noted and appreciated.

Claim Rejections

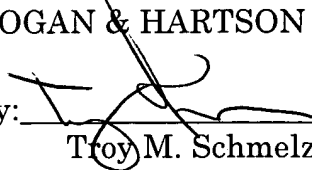
Claims 1, 2 and 12 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of Kobayashi et al. (US 5,826,155). Claims 4 and 6 are rejected as obvious over AAPA in view of Kobayashi and further in view of "well known art". Claim 9 is rejected as obvious over AAPA in view of Kobayashi and Kato et al. (US 5,700,002). Claims 1-14 are canceled, rendering these grounds for rejection moot.

Conclusion

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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